

JAN 21 2014

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

In the Matter of the Search of

(Briefly describe the property to be searched
or identify the person by name and address)

US Mail Parcel, bearing confirmation number

EK061350858US

Case No.

MJ14-23

APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):

US Mail Parcel, bearing confirmation number EK061350858US as more fully described in Attachment A.

located in the Western District of Washington, there is now concealed (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):

See Attachment B.

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;
☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
☒ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

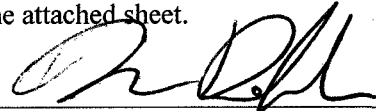
The search is related to a violation of:

Code Section	Offense Description
Title 21, U.S.C. § 841	Distribution of Controlled Substances & Unlawful Use of a Communications
Title 21, U.S.C. § 843	Facility, (U.S. Mails) to Distribute Controlled Substances.

The application is based on these facts:

See affidavit of Bryce K. Dahlin, U.S. Postal Inspector

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.
☐ Delayed notice of _____ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: _____) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.



Applicant's signature

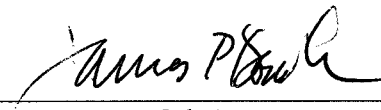
Bryce K. Dahlin, U.S. Postal Inspector

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 21 January 2014

City and state: Seattle, Washington



Judge's signature

James P. Donohue

U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

1 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
 2) ss
 3 COUNTY OF KING)

4 **AFFIDAVIT**

5 BRYCE K. DAHLIN, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says:

6 **BACKGROUND**

7 1. **Affiant Background.** I am a U.S. Postal Inspector with the United States
 8 Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) and have been so employed since February, 2012. I
 9 am currently assigned to the Seattle Division, Prohibited Mails Narcotic Team, where I
 10 investigate controlled substances transported via the United States mails. I completed a
 11 twelve week Basic Inspector Training course in Potomac, Maryland, which included
 12 training regarding transportation of narcotics via the U.S. mails. I have also received
 13 training on the identification and interdiction of controlled substances. Prior to becoming
 14 a Postal Inspector, I served as an Officer in the United States Air Force for five years. I
 15 have also served as a Military Police K-9 handler specializing in drug detection. I hold a
 16 Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Air Force Academy in Business
 17 Management.

18 2. **Duties, Training & Experience.** As part of my duties, I investigate the
 19 use of the U.S. mails to illegally mail and receive controlled substances, the proceeds of
 20 drug trafficking, as well as other instrumentalities associated with drug trafficking, in
 21 violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) (distribution and possession
 22 with intent to distribute controlled substances), and 843(b) (unlawful use of a
 23 communication facility, including the U.S. mails, to facilitate the distribution of
 24 controlled substances). As set forth below, my training and experience includes
 25 identifying parcels with characteristics indicative of criminal activity. During the course
 26 of my employment with the USPIS, I have participated in over one-hundred (100)
 27 criminal investigations involving suspicious parcels and controlled substances.

28 3. The information contained in this affidavit is based upon knowledge I
 gained from my investigation, my personal observations, my training and experience, and
 AFFIDAVIT OF BRYCE K. DAHLIN- 1

1 investigation by other Inspectors, agents, and officers. Because the purpose of this
2 affidavit is limited to setting forth probable cause to search the SUBJECT PARCELS, I
3 have not set forth every fact of which I am aware pertaining to the investigation.

4 4. From my training and experience, I am aware that the United States Postal
5 Service (USPS) mail system is often used to transport controlled substances and/or the
6 proceeds from the sales of controlled substances throughout the United States. I have
7 learned and observed that sometimes drug traffickers put controlled substances and
8 proceeds in the same package. I also know that drug traffickers prefer mail/delivery
9 service such as Priority Mail because of the reliability of this service as well as the ability
10 to track the article's progress to the intended delivery point. When a drug trafficker
11 learns that a mailed article has not arrived as scheduled, he/she becomes suspicious of
12 any delayed attempt to deliver the item.

13 5. In addition, I am aware that the USPS Express Mail service was custom-
14 designed to fit the needs of businesses by providing overnight delivery for time sensitive
15 materials. Business mailings often contain typewritten labels, are in flat cardboard
16 mailers, and usually weigh less than eight (8) ounces. In addition, businesses using
17 corporate charge accounts often print their account number on the Express Mail label in
18 order to expedite transactions with USPS.

19 6. Based on my training and experience concerning the use of Express Mail
20 for the transportation of controlled substances and/or the proceeds from the sales of
21 controlled substances, I am aware these packages usually contain some or all of the
22 following characteristics (which are different than characteristics of packages being sent
23 by legitimate businesses):

24 a. Unlike typical business mailings which usually have typed labels,
25 packages containing controlled substances and/or proceeds often have handwritten
26 address information. In addition, the address information often contains misspelled
27 words or incomplete/incorrect addresses. This is done in an effort to help conceal the
identities of the individuals involved.

28 b. Express Mail packages containing controlled substances and/or
proceeds often stand out from typical business mailings as they do not bear any

1 advertising on the mailing container/box, and are usually being mailed from one
2 individual to another.

3 c. The sender and/or recipient addresses on Express Mail packages
4 containing controlled substances and/or proceeds often either are fictitious, are persons
5 not known to postal personnel familiar with the addresses listed.

6 d. The zip codes for the sender addresses on Express Mail packages
7 containing controlled substances and/or proceeds is different from the zip codes of the
8 post offices from where the parcels were mailed.

9 e. Express Mail packages containing controlled substances and/or
10 proceeds are heavily taped with tape on the seams of the parcel, in an effort to conceal
11 scent.

12 7. Inspectors who encounter a package with any or all of the above
13 characteristics often further scrutinize the package through address verifications,
14 narcotic-detecting canine examinations, and by obtaining search warrants based on
15 probable cause.

16 ITEMS TO BE SEARCHED

17 8. As set forth in Attachment A, this affidavit is made in support of an
18 application for a search warrant for two Express Mail Parcels, hereinafter referred to as
19 "SUBJECT PARCEL 1 and SUBJECT PARCEL 2." These parcels are believed to
20 contain controlled substances, paraphernalia or proceeds related to the distribution of
21 controlled substances. The SUBJECT PARCELS are further described as follows:

- 22 • SUBJECT PARCEL 1: One Express Mail parcel addressed to "Richard Davis, PO
23 Box 6076, Sitka, AK 99835." The return address listed is "Jesus Garcia, 3305
24 Highfeild [sic] Ct, Bellingham, WA 98225." This parcel is postmarked January 8,
25 2014 from zip code 98225 and carries \$19.95 in postage. The delivery
26 confirmation number for SUBJECT PARCEL 1 is: EK061350844US.
- 27 • SUBJECT PARCEL 2: One Express Mail parcel addressed to "Richard Davis, PO
28 Box 6076, Sitka, AK 99835." The return address listed is Sky Paddock, 714 E.

1 Maple St., Bellingham, WA 98225.” This parcel is postmarked January 9, 2014
 2 from zip code 98225 and carries \$19.95 in postage. The delivery confirmation
 3 number for SUBJECT PARCEL 2 is: EK061350858US.

4 ITEMS TO BE SEIZED

5 9. The application requests that law enforcement officers and agents be
 6 authorized to seize the following from the SUBJECT PARCELS, which constitute the
 7 fruits, instrumentalities, and evidence of mailing and distribution of controlled substances
 8 in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) (distribution and
 9 possession with intent to distribute controlled substances) and 843(b) (unlawful use of a
 10 communication facility, including the U.S. mails, to facilitate the distribution of
 11 controlled substances):

12 a. Controlled substances, including, but not limited to, cocaine, crack
 13 cocaine, heroin, hashish, marijuana, methamphetamine, MDMA, methadone, oxycodone,
 14 and Oxycontin;

15 b. Monetary instruments, including but not limited to, currency, money
 16 orders, bank checks, or gift cards;

17 c. Controlled substance-related paraphernalia;

18 d. Documentary evidence relating to the purchase, sale, and/or
 19 distribution of controlled substances;

20 e. Notes, letters and other items which communicate information
 21 identifying the sender and/or recipient or pertaining to the contents of the mailing; and

22 f. Fingerprints and/or handwriting, to identify who handled and/or
 23 mailed the package.

24 THE INVESTIGATION

25 10. On December 10, 2013, Post Office employees identified a suspicious
 26 Express Mail parcel 420998359505500024093344000735 sent from “Brantley Davis,
 27 501 Parkridge Rd., Bellingham WA 98225” addressed to “Richard Davis, PO Box 6076,
 28 Sitka AK 99835.” Both names on parcel were confirmed by Postal Databases to be false.

1 On December 13, 2013, a federal search warrant was obtained and executed finding 2.9g
2 of brown heroin.

3 11. On January 11, 2014, Post Office employees in Sitka, Alaska identified
4 certain characteristics of SUBJECT PARCEL 1 and SUBJECT PARCEL 2 as similar to
5 the previously seized parcel containing heroin. The previously seized parcel, SUBJECT
6 PARCEL 1 and SUBJECT PARCEL 2 were all mailed to the same address "Richard
7 Davis, PO Box 6076, Sitka AK 99835."

8 12. The packaging and written address label of SUBJECT PARCEL 1 and
9 SUBJECT PARCEL 2 are consistent with the appearance of the previously seized parcel
10 found to contain controlled substances.

11 13. SUBJECT PARCEL 1 and SUBJECT PARCEL 2 were forwarded to Postal
12 Inspectors in Seattle, Washington for further investigation and were received on January
13 16, 2014.

14 14. U.S. Postal Inspectors researched both the sender and addressee names
15 and addresses listed on the SUBJECT PARCEL 1 by utilizing USPS and law
16 enforcement databases. U.S. Postal Inspectors learned that no individual by the name of
17 "Richard Davis" is associated with "PO Box 6076, Sitka, Ak 99835." Inspectors also
18 learned that no individual by the name of "Jesus Garcia" is associated with the address
19 "3305 Highfeild Ct, Bellingham, WA 98225."

20 15. U.S. Postal Inspectors researched both the sender and addressee names and
21 addresses listed on the SUBJECT PARCEL 2 by utilizing USPS and law enforcement
22 databases. U.S. Postal Inspectors learned that no individual by the name of "Richard
23 Davis" is associated with "PO Box 6076, Sitka, Ak 99835." Inspectors also learned that
24 no individual by the name of "Sky Paddock" is associated with "714 E. Maple St.,
25 Bellingham, WA 98225."

26 16. In addition, SUBJECT PARCEL 1 and SUBJECT PARCEL 2 were mailed
27 from Bellingham, Washington a known drug source location, to Sitka, Alaska, a known
28 drug receiving and trafficking area.

17. Based on this information, at approximately 11:25 am on January 16, 2014, Inspectors placed SUBJECT PARCEL 1 in a line with four other control parcels. SUBJECT PARCEL 1 was placed in position #3. Customs and Border Protection Officer and K9 Handler Adam Chavez applied narcotic detecting canine "Pedro" to each of the parcels. Additional information regarding the training and qualifications of K9 "Pedro" are included in the Affidavit of CBP Officer Chavez, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

18. Officer Chavez observed an immediate change in Pedro's behavior as he approached SUBJECT PARCEL 1 in position #3. Pedro alerted to SUBJECT PARCEL 1 by aggressively scratching and biting at the parcel after the sniff. Pedro is trained on an aggressive response.


19. At approximately 11:28 am on January 16, 2014, Inspectors placed SUBJECT PARCEL 2 in a line with four other control parcels. SUBJECT PARCEL 1 was placed in position #5. Customs and Border Protection Officer and K9 Handler Adam Chavez applied narcotic detecting canine "Pedro" to each of the parcels. Additional information regarding the training and qualifications of K9 "Pedro" are included in the Affidavit of CBP Officer Chavez, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

20. Officer Chavez observed an immediate change in Pedro's behavior as he approached SUBJECT PARCEL 2 in position #5. Pedro alerted to SUBJECT PARCEL 1 by aggressively scratching and biting at the parcel after the sniff. Pedro is trained on an aggressive response.

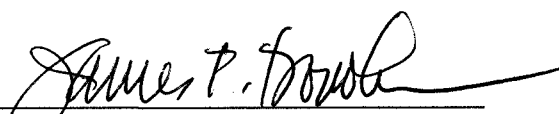
CONCLUSION

21. Based on the facts set forth in this Affidavit, I believe there is probable cause to conclude that the SUBJECT PARCEL 1 and SUBJECT PARCEL 2 contain controlled substances, currency, documents, or other evidence, more fully identified in Attachment B, that relates to the mailing and distribution of controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) (distribution and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances) and 843(b) (unlawful use of a

1 communication facility, including the U.S. mails, to facilitate the distribution of
2 controlled substances).

3
4 
5 BRYCE K. DAHLIN
6 Postal Inspector, US Postal Inspection Service
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8 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 21st day of January, 2014.
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11 JAMES P. DONOHUE
12 U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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ATTACHMENT A

Parcel to be searched

SUBJECT PARCEL 1:

One Express Mail parcel addressed to "Richard Davis, PO Box 6076, Sitka, AK 99835." The return address listed is "Jesus Garcia, 3305 Highfeild Ct, Bellingham, WA 98225." This is an express mail parcel with a weight of 3oz. This parcel is postmarked January 8, 2014 from zip code 98225 in Bellingham, Washington and carries \$19.95 in postage. The delivery confirmation number for SUBJECT PARCEL 1 is: EK061350844US.

SUBJECT PARCEL 2:

One Express Mail parcel addressed to "Richard Davis, PO Box 6076, Sitka, AK 99835." The return address listed is Sky Paddock, 714 E. Maple St., Bellingham, WA 98225." This is an Express Mail parcel with a weight of 3 oz. This parcel is postmarked January 9, 2014 from zip code 98225 and carries \$19.95 in postage. The delivery confirmation number for SUBJECT PARCEL 2 is: EK061350858US.Express

ATTACHMENT B

Items to be seized

The following items that constitute evidence, instrumentalities, or fruits of violations of Title 21, United States Code, Section(s) 841(a)(1) and 843(b), unlawful use of a communication facility, including the U.S. mails, to facilitate the distribution of controlled substances:

a. Controlled substances, including, but not limited to, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, hashish, marijuana, methamphetamine, MDMA, methadone, oxycodone, and Oxycontin;

b. Monetary instruments, including but not limited to, currency, money orders, bank checks, or gift cards;

c. Controlled substance-related paraphernalia;

d. Documentary evidence relating to the purchase, sale, and/or distribution of controlled substances;

e. Notes, letters and other items which communicate information identifying the sender and/or recipient or pertaining to the contents of the mailing; and

f. Fingerprints and/or handwriting, to identify who handled and/or mailed the package.



**U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security**

Canine Enforcement Office
19339 28th Ave S., Bldg D
SeaTac, WA 98188

AFFIDAVIT

I, Adam J. Chavez, am a Canine Officer with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, assigned to the Seattle-Tacoma area. My assigned canine, "Pedro" (CH-62) is certified in the detection of the odor of the following controlled substances: Marijuana, Hashish, Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine and Ecstasy. "Pedro's" last certification was May 2nd, 2013.

Narcotic Detector Dogs within U.S. Customs and Border Protection are required to recertify yearly. Additionally, these canines are required to perform 8 hours of training in every 2 week pay period, along with the training conducted during the normal workday, which consists of two or more training exercises. This is to ensure that the Narcotic Detector dogs maintain their level of proficiency in the detection of the above stated narcotics.

I have been a Canine Officer since April 1991.

On January 16, 2014 at 1125hrs at the Seattle P&DC located at 10700 27th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98168. I along with Canine "Pedro" searched five packages that were placed in a line in the parking lot, four controlled packages and one suspect package. Canine "Pedro" alerted to USPS parcel tracking number EK061350858US which was in position #5. The package was mailed from Bellingham, WA on January 9, 2014. The USPS parcel is being shipped from Sky Paddock, 714 E. Maple st. Bellingham, WA 98225 to Richard Davis, PO Box 6076, Sitka, AK 99835.

Signed

Date

1/16/14

Adam J. Chavez
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Seattle, WA
(206) 396-1817 cell
(206)870-1787 fax
adam.j.chavez@cbp.dhs.gov

TRADITION

★

SERVICE

★

HONOR



**U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security**

Canine Enforcement Office

19339 28th Ave S., Bldg D

SeaTac, WA 98188

AFFIDAVIT

I, Adam J. Chavez, am a Canine Officer with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, assigned to the Seattle-Tacoma area. My assigned canine, "Pedro" (CH-62) is certified in the detection of the odor of the following controlled substances: Marijuana, Hashish, Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine and Ecstasy. "Pedro's" last certification was May 2nd, 2013.

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Signed

Date

1/16/14

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TRADITION



SERVICE



HONOR